BEFORE THE DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:)	
ALONZO E. LOCKHART, M.D.))	No: 22-2002-131589
Certificate No. C-42439	j.	
)	
)	
Respondent		

DECISION

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the Division of Medical Quality as its Decision in the above-entitled matter.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on February 18, 2005

IT IS SO ORDERED January 19, 2005.

By:

RONALD L. MOY, M/D

Chair - Panel B

Division of Medical Quality

1	<u>'</u>		
1	BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General		
2	of the State of California CINDY M. LOPEZ, State Bar No. 119988		
3	Deputy Attorney General California Department of Justice	•	
4	300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013		
- 5	Telephone: (213) 897-7373 Facsimile: (213) 897-9395		
6	Attorneys for Complainant		
7	BEFORE THE		
8	DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
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11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 22-2002-131589	
12	ALONZO ELLIS LOCKHART, M.D. 708 E. Manchester Blvd., B-4	OAH No. L-2003-120216	
13	Inglewood, CA 90301	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER	
14	Physician & Surgeon Certificate No. C42439		
15	Respondent.		
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17	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND	AGREED by and between the parties to the	
18	above-entitled proceedings that the following matter	•	
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20	PARTIE	<u>S</u>	
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22	Board of California. He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in		
23	this matter by Bill Lockyer, Attorney General of the State of California, by Cindy M. Lopez,		
24	Deputy Attorney General.		
25	2. Respondent Alonzo Ellis Lockhart, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in		
. 26	this proceeding by attorney Stewart Lim, Esq., whose address is 4000 Barranca Parkway, Ste.		
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28	3. On or about May 16, 1988, the Medical Board of California issued		

Physician & Surgeon Certificate No. C42439 to Alonzo Ellis Lockhart, M.D. (Respondent). The Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 22-2002-131589 and will expire on August 31, 2003, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 22-2002-131589 was filed before the Division of Medical Quality (Division) for the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on August 5, 2003. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 22-2002-131589 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 22-2002-131589. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at his own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

8. Respondent admits that he was convicted of a misdemeanor, unlawful practice of medicine, a violation of Business and Professions Code section 2052 as alleged in Accusation No. 22-2002-131589.

9. Respondent agrees that his Physician & Surgeon Certificate is subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Division's imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

CONTINGENCY

- Quality. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Medical Board of California may communicate directly with the Division regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Division considers and acts upon it. If the Division fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Division shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 11. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 12. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Division may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician & Surgeon Certificate No. C42439 issued to Respondent Alonzo Ellis Lockhart, M.D. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for five (5) years on the following terms and conditions.

1. <u>ACTUAL SUSPENSION</u> As part of probation, respondent is suspended from the practice of medicine for 60 days beginning the sixteenth (16th) day after the effective date of this decision.

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2. <u>ETHICS COURSE</u> Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, respondent shall enroll in a course in ethics, at respondent's expense, approved in advance by the Division or its designee. Failure to successfully complete the course during the first year of probation is a violation of probation.

An ethics course taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Division or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the course would have been approved by the Division or its designee had the course been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Division or its designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

3. MONITORING - PRACTICE/BILLING Within 30 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, respondent shall submit to the Division or its designee for prior approval as a practice monitor, the name and qualifications of one or more licensed physicians and surgeons whose licenses are valid and in good standing, and who are preferably American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) certified. A monitor shall have no prior or current business or personal relationship with respondent, or other relationship that could reasonably be expected to compromise the ability of the monitor to render fair and unbiased reports to the Division, including, but not limited to, any form of bartering, shall be in respondent's field of practice, and must agree to serve as respondent's monitor. Respondent shall pay all monitoring costs.

The Division or its designee shall provide the approved monitor with copies of the Decision(s) and Accusation(s), and a proposed monitoring plan. Within 15 calendar days of receipt of the Decision(s), Accusation(s), and proposed monitoring plan, the monitor shall submit a signed statement that the monitor has read the Decision(s) and Accusation(s), fully understands the role of a monitor, and agrees or disagrees with the proposed monitoring plan. If the monitor disagrees with the proposed monitoring plan, the monitor shall submit a revised monitoring plan

with the signed statement.

Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, and continuing throughout probation, respondent's practice shall be monitored by the approved monitor. Respondent shall make all records available for immediate inspection and copying on the premises by the monitor at all times during business hours, and shall retain the records for the entire term of probation.

The monitor shall submit a quarterly written report to the Division or its designee which includes an evaluation of respondent's performance, indicating whether respondent's practices are within the standards of practice of medicine or billing, or both, and whether respondent is practicing medicine safely, billing appropriately or both.

It shall be the sole responsibility of respondent to ensure that the monitor submits the quarterly written reports to the Division or its designee within 10 calendar days after the end of the preceding quarter.

If the monitor resigns or is no longer available, respondent shall, within 5 calendar days of such resignation or unavailability, submit to the Division or its designee, for prior approval, the name and qualifications of a replacement monitor who will be assuming that responsibility within 15 calendar days. If respondent fails to obtain approval of a replacement monitor within 60 days of the resignation or unavailability of the monitor, respondent shall be suspended from the practice of medicine until a replacement monitor is approved and prepared to assume immediate monitoring responsibility. Respondent shall cease the practice of medicine within 3 calendar days after being so notified by the Division or designee.

In lieu of a monitor, respondent may participate in a professional enhancement program equivalent to the one offered by the Physician Assessment and Clinical Education Program at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine, that includes, at minimum, quarterly chart review, semi-annual practice assessment, and semi-annual review of professional growth and education. Respondent shall participate in the professional enhancement program at respondent's expense during the term of probation.

Failure to maintain all records, or to make all appropriate records available for

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immediate inspection and copying on the premises, or to comply with this condition as outlined above is a violation of probation.

NOTIFICATION Prior to engaging in the practice of medicine, the respondent shall provide a true copy of the Decision(s) and Accusation(s) to the Chief of Staff or the Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to respondent, at any other facility where respondent engages in the practice of medicine, including all physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the Chief Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage to respondent. Respondent shall submit proof of compliance to the Division or its designee within 15 calendar days.

This condition shall apply to any change(s) in hospitals, other facilities or insurance carrier.

- 5. OBEY ALL LAWS Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules governing the practice of medicine in California, and remain in full compliance with any court ordered criminal probation, payments and other orders.
- 6. **QUARTERLY DECLARATIONS** Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Division, stating whether there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation. Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations not later than 10 calendar days after the end of the preceding quarter.
- 7. PROBATION UNIT COMPLIANCE Respondent shall comply with the Division's probation unit. Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Division informed of respondent's business and residence addresses. Changes of such addresses shall be immediately communicated in writing to the Division or its designee. Under no circumstances shall a post office box serve as an address of record, except as allowed by Business and Professions Code section 2021(b).

Respondent shall not engage in the practice of medicine in respondent's place of residence. Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California physician's and surgeon's license.

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Respondent shall immediately inform the Division, or its designee, in writing, of travel to any areas outside the jurisdiction of California which lasts, or is contemplated to last, more than 30 calendar days.

- 8. <u>INTERVIEW WITH THE DIVISION, OR ITS DESIGNEE</u> Respondent shall be available in person for interviews either at respondent's place of business or at the probation unit office, with the Division or its designee, upon request at various intervals, and either with or without prior notice throughout the term of probation.
- 9. RESIDING OR PRACTICING OUT-OF-STATE In the event respondent should leave the State of California to reside or to practice, respondent shall notify the Division or its designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to the dates of departure and return. Non-practice is defined as any period of time exceeding 30 calendar days in which respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in Sections 2051 and 2052 of the Business and Professions Code.

All time spent in an intensive training program outside the State of California which has been approved by the Division or its designee shall be considered as time spent in the practice of medicine within the State. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a period of non-practice. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California will relieve respondent of the responsibility to comply with the probationary terms and conditions with the exception of this condition and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Laws; Probation Unit Compliance; and Cost Recovery.

Respondent's license shall be automatically canceled if respondent's periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California total two years. However, respondent's license shall not be canceled as long as respondent is residing and practicing medicine in another state of the United States and is on active probation with the medical licensing authority of that state, in which case the two year period shall begin on the date probation is completed or terminated in that state.

10. FAILURE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE - CALIFORNIA RESIDENT

In the event respondent resides in the State of California and for any reason respondent stops practicing medicine in California, respondent shall notify the Division or its designee in writing within 30 calendar days prior to the dates of non-practice and return to practice. Any period of non-practice within California, as defined in this condition, will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term and does not relieve respondent of the responsibility to comply with the terms and conditions of probation. Non-practice is defined as any period of time exceeding 30 calendar days in which respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in sections 2051 and 2052 of the Business and Professions Code.

All time spent in an intensive training program which has been approved by the Division or its designee shall be considered time spent in the practice of medicine. For purposes of this condition, non-practice due to a Board-ordered suspension or in compliance with any other condition of probation, shall not be considered a period of non-practice.

Respondent's license shall be automatically canceled if respondent resides in California and for a total of two years, fails to engage in California in any of the activities described in Business and Professions Code sections 2051 and 2052.

- 11. <u>COMPLETION OF PROBATION</u> Respondent shall comply with all financial obligations (e.g., cost recovery, restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the completion of probation. Upon successful completion of probation, respondent's certificate shall be fully restored.
- 12. <u>VIOLATION OF PROBATION</u> Failure to fully comply with any term or condition of probation is a violation of probation. If respondent violates probation in any respect, the Division, after giving respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an Accusation, Petition to Revoke Probation, or an Interim Suspension Order is filed against respondent during probation, the Division shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.
 - 13. COST RECOVERY Within 90 calendar days from the effective date of

the Decision or other period agreed to by the Division or its designee, respondent shall reimburse the Division the amount of \$2,000 for its investigative and prosecution costs. The filing of bankruptcy or period of non-practice by respondent shall not relieve the respondent of his obligation to reimburse the Division for its costs.

- LICENSE SURRENDER Following the effective date of this Decision, if respondent ceases practicing due to retirement, health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of probation, respondent may request the voluntary surrender of respondent's license. The Division reserves the right to evaluate respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether or not to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, respondent shall within 15 calendar days deliver respondent's wallet and wall certificate to the Division or its designee and respondent shall no longer practice medicine. Respondent will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of probation and the surrender of respondent's license shall be deemed disciplinary action. If respondent re-applies for a medical license, the application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked certificate.
- associated with probation monitoring each and every year of probation, as designated by the Division, which are currently set at \$2,874.00, but may be adjusted on an annual basis. Such costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of California and delivered to the Division or its designee no later than January 31 of each calendar year. Failure to pay costs within 30 calendar days of the due date is a violation of probation.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Stewart Lim, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician & Surgeon Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Division of Medical Quality, Medical Board of California.

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1	BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General of the State of California	FILED STATE OF CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ROARD OF CALIFORNIA	
2	ADRIAN K. PANTON, State Bar No. 64459 Supervising Deputy Attorney General CINDY M. LOPEZ	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA SACRAMENTO 12 20 23 BY FEMAL A. Markey	
4	Deputy Attorney General California Department of Justice		
5	300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013		
6	Telephone: (213) 897-7373 Facsimile: (213) 897-9395		
7	Attorneys for Complainant	•	
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. 9	BEFORE DIVISION OF MEDI	CAL QUALITY	
10	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA		
11	STATE OF CAI	LIFORNIA	
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 22-2002-131589	
13	ALONZO E. LOCKHART, M.D.		
14	708 E. Manchester Boulevard Inglewood, CA 90301	ACCUSATION	
15	Physician and Surgeon Certificate No. C 42439		
16	Respondent.		
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18	Complainant alleges:		
19	PARTIE	<u>SS</u>	
20	1. Ron Joseph (Complainant) bri	ngs this Accusation solely in his official	
21	capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Bo		
22	Affairs.		
23	2. On or about May 16, 1988, the	e Medical Board of California issued	
24	Physician and Surgeon Certificate Number C 42439 to Alonzo E. Lockhart, M.D. (Respondent).		
25	The Physician and Surgeon Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the		
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JURISDICTION

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the Division of Medical Quality (Division) for the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
- 4. Section 2227 of the Code provides that a licensee who is found guilty under the Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked, suspended for a period not to exceed one year, placed on probation and required to pay the costs of probation monitoring, or such other action taken in relation to discipline as the Division deems proper.
 - 5. Section 2234 of the Code states:

"The Division of Medical Quality shall take action against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct. In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- "(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate, any provision of this chapter [Chapter 5, the Medical Practice Act].
 - "(b) Gross negligence.
 - "(c) Repeated negligent acts.
 - "(d) Incompetence.
- "(e) The commission of any act involving dishonesty or corruption which is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.
- "(f) Any action or conduct which would have warranted the denial of a certificate."
 - 6. Section 490 states:

"A board may suspend or revoke a license on the ground that the licensee has been convicted of a crime, if the crime is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the license was issued. A conviction within the meaning of this section means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo

contendere. Any action which a board is permitted to take following the establishment of a conviction may be taken when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code."

7. Section 2236 of the Code states:

- "(a) The conviction of any offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon constitutes unprofessional conduct within the meaning of this chapter [Chapter 5, the Medical Practice Act]. The record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence only of the fact that the conviction occurred.
- "(b) The district attorney, city attorney, or other prosecuting agency shall notify the Division of Medical Quality of the pendency of an action against a licensee charging a felony or misdemeanor immediately upon obtaining information that the defendant is a licensee. The notice shall identify the licensee and described the crimes charged and the facts alleged. The prosecuting agency shall also notify the clerk of the court in which the action is pending that the defendant is a licensee, and the clerk shall record prominently in the file that the defendant holds a license as a physician and surgeon.
- "(c) The clerk of the court in which a licensee is convicted of a crime shall, within 48 hours after the conviction, transmit a certified copy of the record of conviction to the board. The division may inquire into the circumstances surrounding the commission of a crime in order to fix the degree of discipline or to determine if the conviction is of an offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.
- "(d) A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction after a plea of nolo contendere is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this section and Section 2236.1. The record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence of the fact that the conviction occurred."
 - 8. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Division

part:

may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

- 9. Section 14124.12 of the Welfare and Institutions Code states, in pertinent
- "(a) Upon receipt of written notice from the Medical Board of California, the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, or the Board of Dental Examiners of California, that a licensee's license has been placed on probation as a result of a disciplinary action, the department may not reimburse any Medi-Cal claim for the type of surgical service or invasive procedure that gave rise to the probation, including any dental surgery or invasive procedure, that was performed by the licensee on or after the effective date of probation and until the termination of all probationary terms and conditions or until the probationary period has ended, whichever occurs first. This section shall apply except in any case in which the relevant licensing board determines that compelling circumstances warrant the continued reimbursement during the probationary period of any Medi-Cal claim, including any claim for dental services, as so described. In such a case, the department shall continue to reimburse the licensee for all procedures, except for those invasive or surgical procedures for which the licensee was placed on probation."

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Conviction of a Crime)

- 10. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under sections 490 and 2236 of the Code in that he has been convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon. The circumstances are as follows:
- 11. On or about June 13, 2003, respondent entered a plea of guilty to the following charges: one felony count of conspiracy to commit the crime of the unlawful practice of medicine under circumstances which create a risk of great bodily injury or serious illness in

1. Code section 2053 was repealed effective January 1, 2003.

violation of Penal Code section 182(a)(1) and Business and Professions Code section 2053¹; one misdemeanor count of the unlawful practice of medicine in violation of Code section 2052. Also on June 13, the imposition of sentence was suspended and as to the misdemeanor offense, respondent was placed on probation for a 3-year term on conditions which included incarceration in the county jail for 90 days and the payment of a \$200 restitution fine. The sentence on the felony count was stayed until June 11, 2004.

Alonzo Villalobos, a medical assistant who was not a United States licensed physician, operated the Samuel Clinic, a medical clinic in Santa Ana in Orange County. The clinic was owned by respondent but between October 2001 and August 2002, respondent permitted Villalobos to diagnose and treat patients. At least four (4) different patients were subjected to these illegal and harmful acts (Manna, Alongo), Investigator Rodriguez, Alongo Company. Two of the victims were children: Alongo was just over a year old, and Alongo was only 10 when Villalobos removed tissue from her body and skin. Respondent never examined these patients, nor did he perform the type of detailed history and physical that only a trained practitioner can perform: asking pertinent questions about the onset and development of the presenting complaints, tracking down and ruling out other possible causes for the patient's problem, physically checking the effected organs and parts of the body, and ordering diagnostic tests.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct)

- 13. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2234 in that he engaged in acts of unprofessional conduct. The circumstances are as follows:
- 14. The facts and allegations in paragraphs 11 and 12 are incorporated here by reference.

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PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Division of Medical Quality issue a decision:

- Revoking or suspending Physician and Surgeon Certificate Number C 42439, issued to Alonzo E. Lockhart, M.D.;
- Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Alonzo E. Lockhart, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician's assistants, pursuant to section 3527 of the Code;
- Ordering Alonzo E. Lockhart, M.D. to pay the Division of Medical Quality the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, and, if placed on probation, the costs of probation monitoring;
 - Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: <u>August 5, 2003</u>

Executive Director Medical Board of California Department of Consumer Affairs State of California Complainant

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